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BOOK REVIEWS

HISTORY OF THE HEBREWS. FRANK KNIGHT SANDERS. Charles Scribner's Sons. 1914. Pp. xiv, 367.

The worth of this book is guaranteed by the author's recognized standing in the field of Biblical literature. The volume seems to us in some regards the most significant book that Dr. Sanders has yet published. Its exact scope is well expressed by the title taken together with the sub-title: "History of the Hebrews; their political, social, and religious development and their contribution to world betterment." Its real aim and spirit and limitations are admirably set forth in the Foreword:

"This volume seeks to make clear the important place of the Hebrew people in the history of nations and to justify the selection of their history, as set forth in the Old Testament, as an introduction to the larger subject. . . . There seems to be a place for a compact, comprehensive outline of Biblical history and literature, simple enough in its expression and execution to hold the attention of the growing mind, and yet complete enough to meet the reasonable needs of any mind. . . . The supreme defect of the religious thinking of the average man or woman today is its narrowness. Every religiously minded person needs to be familiar with the whole Bible and with the Bible as a whole. This knowledge need not be reserved for ministers or scholars. It may be the possession of any thoughtful student of religion. The writer has aimed to produce a useful book. It does not profess to be a contribution to original scholarship. The only originality that is feasible in a work of this sort is that of method."

In this book Dr. Sanders has placed his broad scholarship at the service of the Church. It is a book for Bible teachers and students. It is an admirable history, interestingly developed, with a true sense of proportion and of religious values. The method of organizing the material into chapters, sub-divisions, and themes, reveals the view-point of the teacher and will delight teachers who use the book as a text for classes. The large print, the outstanding themes in full-faced type, the maps and charts, and the excellent workmanship of the book-maker, will all commend it to the teacher and the student of the Old Testament.

The book admirably realizes the author's aim, and will prove an immensely valuable contribution to religious education, in which field the author has already done distinguished service.